

First Mennonite Church of Halstead

April 26, 2026

We encounter many reasons to lose our joy during each day. As we meet together today, let us remember that purposefully praising God amid those circumstances can change not only our attitudes, but the situation as well.

Gathering Music – Cindy Siemens

Our Great Savior – arr. Bob Krogstad

All Creatures of Our God and King - arr. Ken Medema

Welcome and Announcements - Pastor Steve

April Birthday Blessing and Offering

Centering Music – Läuten Bells

Strong Word of God – Barry Braman

Call to Worship –

Leader: In the darkest moments, God is already at work.

People: We gather to worship the One who is always worthy.

Leader: When the ground shakes and doors fly open, we discover we are not alone.

People: God meets us in the midnight places of our lives.

Leader: Even now, God invites us to a fresh start.

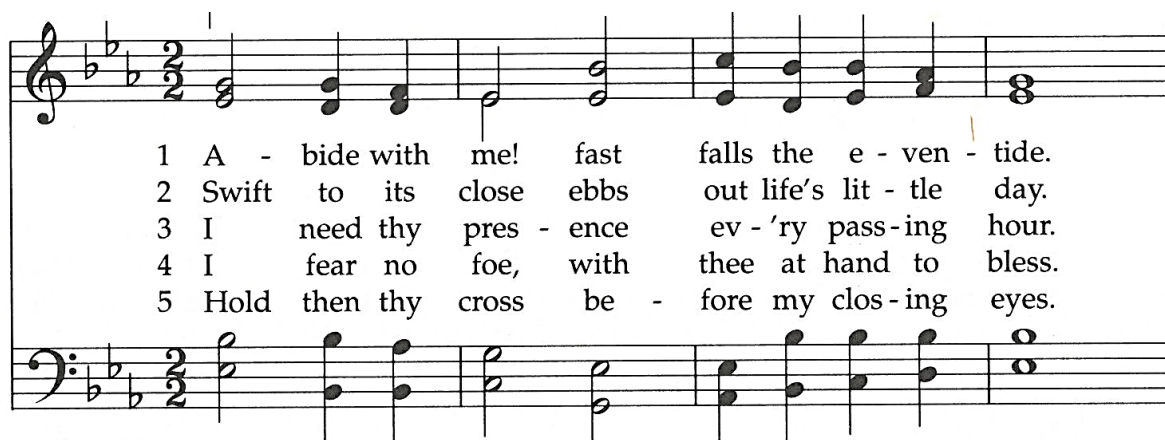
People: We come ready to be transformed.

Leader: From fear to faith, from darkness to dawn—

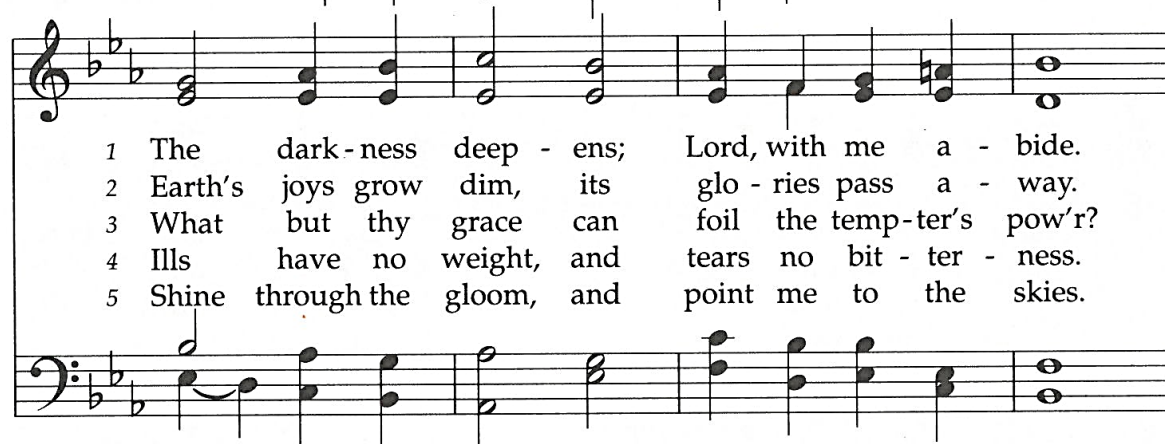
People: We worship the God who turns midnight into morning!

*Worship Through Singing – Abide with me – HWB #653

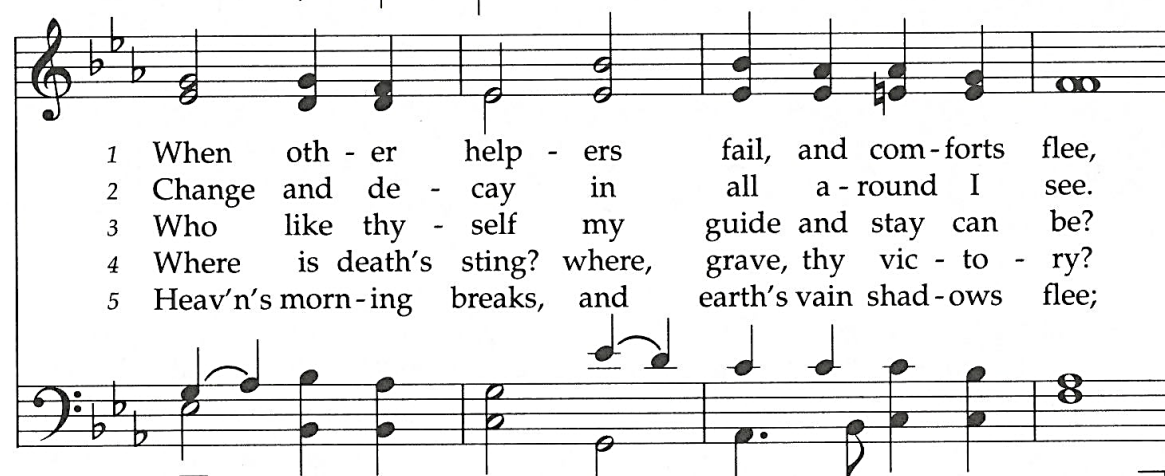
Youth Bells



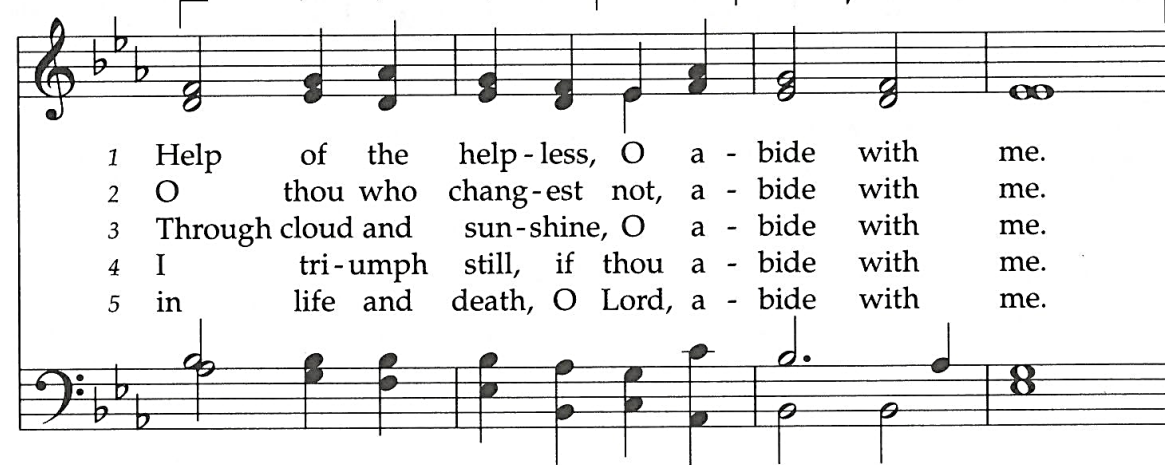
1 A - bide with me! fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day.
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour.
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless.
5 Hold then thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes.



1 The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
2 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way.
3 What but thy grace can foil the temp - ter's pow'r?
4 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
5 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



1 When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
2 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
3 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
4 Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
5 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



1 Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
2 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
3 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
4 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
5 in life and death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Scripture – Acts 16:16-34 (p. 1721-22)

Worship Through Singing – *When in our music God is glorified*

– HWB #44

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in five numbered lines, with each line corresponding to a measure of the vocal line. The first system covers the first four lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next four lines. The third system covers the next four lines. The fourth system covers the final two lines of lyrics, with the first line of this system corresponding to the first line of the fifth system of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

1 and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
2 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
3 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
4 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light?
5 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

1 it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried
2 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
3 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue,
4 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
5 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways

1-4 al - le - lu - ia! 5 al - le - lu - ia!

Children's Time – Melanie Haspels

A nursery is available in the basement for children aged 4 and younger following Children's Time.

Offering & Offertory – Pine Village

How Firm a Foundation – Barry Braman

Läuten Bells

*Worship Through Singing – In Christ Alone – VT #332

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right-eous-
world by dark - ness slain; then burst-ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save,
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com-mands my des - ti - ny.

(G) (Em7) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (G)
Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Ab

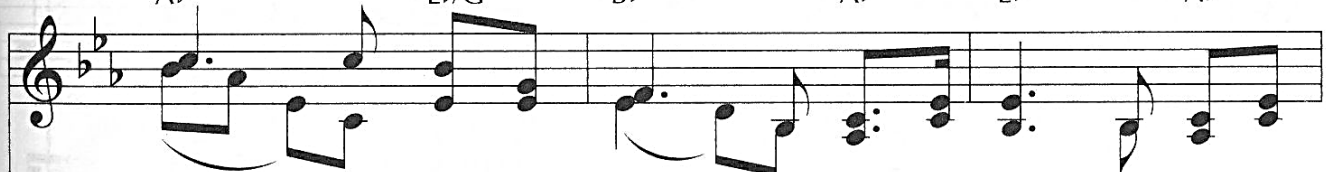
(A) (D) (G) (Em7) (A7) (D)
Bb Eb Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb



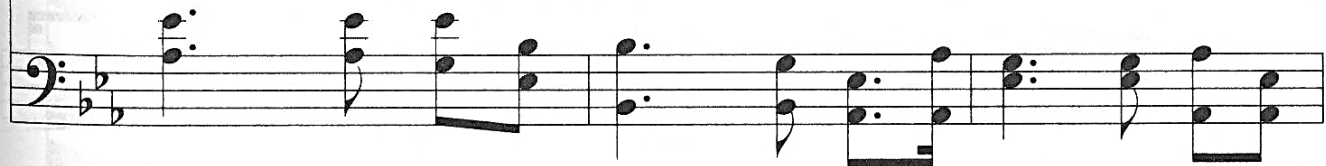
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 till on the cross as Je - sus died, *the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er



(G) (D/F#) (A) (G) (D) (G)
 Ab Eb/G Bb Ab Eb Ab



stilled, when striv - ings cease. My com - fort - er, my all in
 God was sat - is - fied. My ev - 'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



(A) (D) (G) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 Bb Eb Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb



all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!



***Worship Through Singing** – *Hallelujah to the Lamb* – Lyrics Projected

Congregational Prayer – Pastor Steve

Message – Pastor Steve

Singing in the Dark: Praise, Pain, and the Presence of God

Response Song – *It Is Well* – Lyrics Projected

Closing Prayer

***Sending Song** – *This I Believe (The Creed)* – Lyrics Projected

***Benediction**

***Postlude** – Cindy Siemens

Shout to the North – Martin Smith

*Please stand if you are able

CHURCH CALENDAR

April 26	12:00 p.m.	Last Sunday Potluck and membership conversation
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups Women's Bible Study
April 27	6:00 p.m.	Nurture meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
April 29	7:30 p.m.	Worship meeting
April 30	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Team meeting
May 2-3		Camp Mennoscah Weekend

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The rose on the organ is in honor of Jo Pjesky's 92nd birthday on May 6. Happy Birthday next week Jo!

Please join us for our Last Sunday Potluck today immediately following the service. There's always plenty to share if you weren't able to bring anything. A conversation about membership will follow the meal.

The church camp out at Camp Mennoscah is May 2-3. Forms and payment need to be turned into Gregg today. Sign-ups for Sunday morning breakfast foods will be coming this week via email. ***There will not be any Sunday School or church service in Halstead next week.***

A prayer calendar for VBS was placed in your mailbox. Please join us in praying over all aspects of VBS during the month of May.

The May-June issue of *The Upper Room* is available on the table at the back of the sanctuary and is in the literature rack outside Stauffer Hall.

The Halstead Interfaith Council will donate funds to our Halstead / Bentley School District for backpacks and school supplies for families in need. Congregation members from all our community churches are invited to contribute. If you would like to donate to this fund, please write your checks to First Mennonite Church and designate Interfaith School Supplies. We may make our donations any time until the end of May. Thank you for helping to support our students and their families.

The Newton Et Cetera Shop turns 50! In 1976 the Newton Et Cetera Shop opened for business with the mission to monetarily support Mennonite Central Committee. There have been many changes over the years, but this mission remains. Currently 90% of our proceeds are given to MCC and 10% are used for grants for local non-profits. Our donations to MCC over the last 50 years total \$4,546,591! That's impressive! We are grateful for our generous donors, our supporting churches and the countless volunteers and staff over the years who have made this possible. ***Please join us for a kick-off anniversary celebration on Thursday, April 30 (our actual anniversary date!) at the shop in Newton, 619***

N. Main, during our business hours of 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. for hotdogs (while they last) and a cookie celebration with the Newton Chamber from 4:30-5:30 pm. Tours of the shop will be available from 4:30-5:30 pm. Also, the Silent Auction is back for one week, April 27-May 2 as part of the celebration. Items for auction are displayed in the shop or check out social media to see the premium and vintage items being auctioned. Call the shop with your bid at 316-283-9461. Other special events will be held throughout the summer with a celebration event being planned for special guests in September.

WDC Resource Library - Need a resource but can't get to the WDC Resource Library during open hours? We now have after-hours lockers to pick up library materials on weekends and during evening hours. Contact Jennie at crlib@mennowdc.org to arrange pickup. Resource Library Open Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8:30am-4:30pm

Pine Village's Benefit Day will include their pulled pork and baby back ribs fundraiser and their annual car show on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. A BBQ dinner (cost by donation) will be from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The event is free for spectators and includes inflatables for the children. BBQ pre-orders can be picked up at the Wellness Center during the car show or on May 11 or from 12 – 3 p.m. If you have a vehicle you would like to show, sign up online at www.pinevillageks.org/eventssignup or call 620.345.2901. Car Show entries are \$20.

Hesston College Updates: Hesston College theatre's playwriting festival, "Pen to Paper to Performance" will be held May 1 and 2 in Keim Center. The festival brings to life several winning 10-minute play submissions written by area playwrights and will be performed both nights at 7 p.m. A talk-back time with the playwrights will follow each performance. Tickets (\$5/students, \$10/adults and seniors) will be available at the door. For more information, visit hesston.edu/theatre.

Bethel College Updates: Sun., April 26 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum, 3 p.m., with Dr. Prisca Barnes-Simmons, Wichita, founder of Storytime Village Inc., "The Dockum Drugstore Sit-In," *Kauffman Museum auditorium*. **Sun., April 26** – Woven and

Open Road joint concert, 4 p.m., *Bethel College Mennonite Church*
Wed., April 29 - 9:30 a.m., "Walking through Greece on Paul's Journeys," Marcia Zuercher, history teacher; 10:50 a.m., "A Hint of Jazz," piano duets by Dr. Christina Liu, Bethel College, and Dr. Brett Janssen, Central Christian College, McPherson. **Wed., April 29** – Jazz on the Green at Bethel College, 7 p.m. (*rain venue: Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*) **Thurs., April 30** – Bethel College Voice Studio recital, Dr. Holly Swartzendruber, instructor, 7 p.m., *Administration Building chapel* **Sun., May 3** – Bethel College Masterworks Concert, 4 p.m.: Haydn's *The Creation* – Dr. Russell Adrian conducting, with mass choir, orchestra and soloists; *Memorial Hall*. **Sat., May 9** – Concert Choir Europe Tour Send-off Concert, 7 p.m., *Bethel College Mennonite Church* **Now in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center** – Senior Art Exhibit II, featuring the work of Bethel College students Tre August, Nick Collins and Yuretzi Licea, through May 10, *Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center*. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

Camp Mennoscah Updates: Camp Mennoscah is seeking a bookkeeper/reservation specialist. Experience with accounting/bookkeeping and general office duties is preferred. Must have good phone, people and email skills, along with strong organization. This position has potential to be a part- or full-time position. Candidate will also need to be able to pass a background check and have transportation to camp property. Some remote work may also be available. If interested, please send inquiries and resume to Olivia Bartel, olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Pray for the Camp Mennoscah weekend next weekend, that is will be a time of relaxation, refreshment and renewal for those who attend.
- Pray for the plans being made for VBS and for kids and volunteers to register and attend.
- Western District Conference: Pray for renewal, courage, and new life in our church planting efforts as we celebrate the resurrection.

- Mennonite Mission Network: Laura and Nick Sharp, and their two children, are nearing the end of their one-year service term in La Mesa, Colombia, where they offer educational support at the Colegio Americano Menno. Pray that they are able use these final two months in Colombia to continue the relationships they have built, while also preparing themselves and the children they help teach for their inevitable good-byes.

SUNDAY INFORMATION

NURSERY TODAY	Shaun Ortman, Diana Torres, Luke Haspels
PIANIST/ORGANIST	Cindy Siemens
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	
Bethel College	\$50.00
Camp Mennoscah	50.00
Church Budget	3,875.60
MCC Sale (My Coins Count)	205.14
MCUSA	250.00
Pine Village	50.00
Western District Conference	50.00
ATTENDANCE ON LAST SUNDAY	94
OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY	Church Budget
NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY	None – Camp Mennoscah Weekend